REMARKS

New independent claims 16 and 19 correspond with former claims 11 and 14, and have each been amended to clarify that the further mesh node has a plurality of switches having connections configured such that a connection from another mesh node is only connected to one of the switches associated with the further mesh node.

It is respectfully submitted that the obviousness rejection based on the combination of Langlois and Samba warrants reconsideration. Quite clearly, from Fig. 2 of Samba, both of the switches C1 and C2 of node C are connected to both node A and B; i.e., via connection 26 between switch C1 and node A, via connection 27 between switch C2 and node A, via connection 28 between switch C1 and node B, and via connection 29 between switch C2 and node B.

The Examiner is incorrect to assert that, in Samba, connections between node C and node B are "configured such that a connection from another mesh node is only connected to one of the switches associated with the at least one further mesh node", that is, either switch C1 or C2 of node C, as there are two connections between node C and node B, one connection between switch C1 and node B, and the other connection between switch C2 and node B. The same argument applies to the connections between node A and switches C1 and C2 of node C.

In the case of the connections entering node C, that is, connections from both nodes A and B, if the connections to node C were "configured such that a connection from another mesh node is only connected to one of the switches associated with the at least one further mesh node" as required by the independent claims of the present application, then there should only be one connection between nodes A and C, for example, the link between nodes A and C going to switch C1 (identified as connection 26), and there should only be one connection between nodes C and B,

for example, the link between C and B going to switch C2 (identified as connection 29). This arrangement would provide the necessary division of connections to node C between the switches C1 and C2 of node C.

Such an arrangement is neither illustrated, nor described, in Samba. Samba merely discloses the interconnection of all switches of each node, in this case, C1 and C2, with other nodes in a telecommunication system, for example, nodes A and B. There is nothing in Samba to suggest that node A should be solely connected to C1, and that node C should be solely connected to C2. To the contrary, in the telecommunication system of Samba "each of the illustrated switches is connected by a group of communication channels (trunk group) to each of the other switches" (see col. 3, lines 41-45).

Accordingly, even if the teaching of Samba were applied to the disclosure of Langlois, the composite system would not provide means to separate the connections into a node comprising more than one switch between the switches.

As the Examiner correctly states, the advantages of this invention are that costs and processing time are saved as the system does not need to determine the communication pathways into a node comprising more than one switch. This has the further effect of providing faster provision of connections to a node having more than one switch while overcoming the problems associated with fully meshed networks as highlighted in the introduction to the specification. Again, a combination of Samba and Langlois would arrive at a fully meshed network, while not providing a solution to the problems associated with such a network, again as described in the introduction to the description of the invention.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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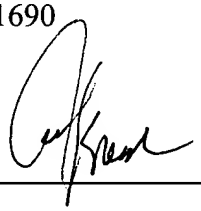

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